

**FOOD, CULTURE & SOCIETY
SOC 2110 WA**

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Tues/Thurs 11:30 - 1pm
Room: RB 1042
Office Hours: Thursday 9-10am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to **SOC 2110 Food, Culture & Society**. In this course, we will examine food systems and our everyday food practices as important sites for symbolic and socio-cultural analysis of the 'social appetite'. We will explore socio-cultural, economic and historical changes to understand the social patterns of food production, processing, distribution and consumption. We will think critically about agriculture, technology, the environment, food policy, health, nutrition, food security and food sovereignty. You will be introduced to food justice movements and we will pay close attention to social inequality and intersecting social identities such as gender, ethnicity, race, and social class as these are produced and reproduced through agrifood and alternative food systems.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Demonstrate knowledge about contemporary debates in Food Sociology which include:

- Identify diverse food systems, and the social / symbolic patterns they produce;
- Recognize how social inequality is created and maintained through food production, distribution and consumption patterns;
- Appreciate the complexity of food choice on individual and environmental health;
- Explain the concepts of food security / insecurity;
- Understand the development of food sovereignty models;
- Develop awareness about food policy (municipal, federal); and
- Learn university-level research, analytical and writing skills.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Critical Perspectives in Food Studies, 2nd Edition (2017), Edited by Mustafa Koc, Jennifer Sumner & Anthony Winson

* Available in the Bookstore: bookstore.lakeheadu.ca

HOW THE COURSE IS ORGANIZED

This course is offered twice a week and requires a total of 3 hours class time per week. In addition, you can expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours of study time per week preparing for class lectures for a **total of 9 hours per week on this course**. Course

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material will scaffold each week and it is essential you attend and not miss class. You are required to independently complete the weekly readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss what you have read.

If you have questions, at any time during this course, please visit me in my Office Hours (as listed above) or contact me through email at: barbara.parker@lakeheadu.ca

Please note: I will only respond to emails sent from a Lakehead university email account. When emailing me, please put SOC 2110 in the Subject Heading. I will do my best to reply to your emails within 24 hours.

CLASSROOM ETTIQUETTE: As a courtesy to your peers and the instructor, please turn off or mute all phones and be advised that tablets and laptops are only to be used in the classroom for note-taking purposes.

LEARNING ACCOMODATIONS: Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit: <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with what it means to plagiarize the words or ideas of others and your responsibilities as a student at Lakehead University. From the Course Calendar:

<http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=21&chapterid=3506&loaduseredits=False>

Plagiarism shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty

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of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

(a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.

(b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

If you have questions, consult the professor.

COURSE EVALUATION

Participation	10%
Mid-term Exam	20% (February 15 th In class)
Short Writing Assignments (15% x 3)	45% (Due: Feb 8, March 1 & 22)
Annotated Bibliography.....	25% (Due: April 5 th)

EVALUATION INFORMATION

Please note: Your assignments must be typed in 12 font, double-spaced with 2.54 cm margins. You must have a title page with the course number/name, title of the assignment, your name, the due date, and the Instructor's name. All written work will be evaluated on (1) substance (content) or your ability to demonstrate understanding of the material; and (2) organization, presentation, grammar and clarity.

All assignments and the midterm test will be discussed in class and you will have the opportunity to ask questions about expectations. It is expected that you will reference in ASA style or the American Sociological Association Referencing style (see ASA Guide on D2L course site)

For your own protection, keep a hard copy of all work submitted for this course.

1. Participation – 10%

The class participation mark will be based on your attendance, class engagement, and your completion of various in-class activities and group work.

2. Mid-Term Exam – 20% February 15th

The Mid-term exam will cover course material through Week 1 to Week 6. Details will be provided in-class.

3. Short Writing Assignments – 45%

You are required to write three (3) short papers over the course of the Term. Each paper is worth 15% for a total of 45%. Maximum expected length of each paper is 4-5 pages of double-spaced text, not including title page and references page.

Paper 1: Film Review of “Food Inc.”

Due: Feb 8

Worth: 15%

After watching the film, write a Film Review paper, which seeks to convince viewers of the merits of the film. You can include your perceptions of the limitations of the film as well, but be sure to write convincingly.

Paper 2: Reflection Paper: Food & Identity

Due: March 1

Worth: 15%

Consider the saying “You are what you eat!” and reflect on what this means to you. How does your background and the social identities (gender, social class, status, ethnicity, age, etc) you present intersect to produce an *eater*?

Paper 3: Critical Analysis Paper

Due: March 22

Worth: 15%

For this paper, you will be assigned a peer reviewed journal article to critically analyze. After carefully reading the paper, you will identify the research question and determine the methodology/methods used by the authors. You will then discuss the findings and conclusions put forth by the authors. Discuss the strengths and limitations of the paper under review and explain how it fits with your own understanding of the research problem.

The journal article under focus for Paper 3 is:

Olauson, Caitlin, Engler-Stringer, Rachel, Vatanparast Hassan and Hanoski Rita. 2017. “Student Food Insecurity: examining barriers to higher education at the University of Saskatchewan.” *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition* DOI:10.1080/19320248.2017.1393365

These short writing assignments require that you demonstrate familiarity and understanding of the course material and assigned readings. To do this, you must reference course materials in ASA referencing style.

I strongly encourage you to visit the Writing Centre, located in the Library and talk with a Writing Coach if you are having difficulty with these papers or would like a second set of eyes to review it before handing it in.

4. Annotated Bibliography – 25%
Due April 5th

An **Annotated Bibliography** is a list of citations to peer-reviewed journal articles, books and reports. Each citation is followed by a descriptive and evaluative paragraph: the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance and quality of the sources cited in relation to your area of research focus.

Before you begin, please review the ***Guide to Writing an Annotated Bibliography*** hand-out, available on D2L.

This assignment requires that you choose a topic of interest in the area of Food Sociology. For instance, you might choose: Food Security in the North; Gender & Food; Food Waste; Food Insecurity in Canada; Fat Acceptance; Sustainable Food Systems; Industrialized Agriculture; Municipal Governance of Food; Food Sovereignty; Critical Nutrition Studies; Environment & Agriculture; Water; etc. There is an endless list of possibilities, so long as the topic you choose focuses on food, culture & society. Please confirm your topic with me if you are unsure of its appropriateness.

Once you had determined your topic, you must conduct a Library Search to find appropriate sources for your Annotated Bibliography. I have arranged a Library Workshop early in the Term to facilitate your learning of the process of conducting a Library Search.

- 1) **Choose 5 of the most relevant and important sources** and read them critically following the guidelines provided in the ***Guide to Critical Appraisal and Analysis*** hand out, available on D2L.
- 2) Using the American Sociological Association (ASA) referencing style, construct an annotated bibliography of your 5 sources.
- 3) Written annotations should be 150-200 words, double-spaced, for each source (word count does not include the citation information).
- 4) Your assignment must follow evaluation guidelines.

If you have questions, please come and see me in my office hours or visit the Writing Centre located in the library.

READINGS BY WEEK

- * Please note that all readings are in the textbook unless otherwise noted
- * Schedule of readings may change with notice from the Instructor

Week 1 - January 9 & 11 **Introduction & Course Overview**

- Review syllabus and discuss course expectations

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- Why study food, culture & society?
- What is Food Sociology?

Read from D2L: Guptill, Amy E., Copelton, Denise A., and Lucal, Betsy. 2017. "Introduction: Invitation to the Feast." In *Food and Society: Principles & Paradoxes*, p. 3-13.

Week 2 - Jan 16 & 18

Complexity in our Food Systems: How did we get here?

- Food Systems: Exploring the Social Contexts of Production, Processing, Distribution and Consumption

Read: Chapter 21 in *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*
Conceptualizing Sustainable Food Systems, by Jennifer Sumner (p. 320-331)

Read from D2L: Barndt, Deborah (2002). Fruits of Injustice: Women in the Post NAFTA Food System, *Canadian Women's Studies*, 21, (4): 82-88.

Film: Banana Split (Available on D2L)

Week 3 - Jan 23 & 25

Food Systems: Providing Context

Library Workshop: Research Skill Development

Jan 23rd

Group 1 - Film. 2006. "Food Inc." Directed by Robert Kenner (1hr 34 min)
Group 2 - Library Workshop (**Located in LI 1003**)

Jan 25th

Group 1 - Library Workshop (**Located in LI 1003**)
Group 2 – Film. 2006. "Food Inc." (1hr 34 min)

***Please note that film is 1.5 hours**

Week 4 - Jan 30 & Feb 1st

Socio-Historical Context of Agriculture

- Explore the socio-historical context of farming and food production
- Social conditions of food work

Read: Chapter 8 in *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*
Two Great Food Revolutions: The Domestication of Nature and the Transgression of Nature's Limits, by Robert Albritton (p. 108-117).

Read: Chapter 10 in Critical Perspectives in Food Studies
Crisis in the Food System: The Farm Crisis, by Nettie Wiebe (p. 138-153)

Week 5 – Feb 6 & 8

We Are What We Eat!: Food & Identity

- What do our food choices say about us?
- Explore gender in relation to food choice

Read from D2L: Guptill, Amy E., Denise A. Copelton, and Betsy Lucal. 2017. “Food and Identity: Fitting In and Standing Out”, *In Food and Society: Principles & Paradoxes*, p. 16-39.

Read from D2L: McPhail, Deborah, Brenda Beagan, and Gwen E. Chapman. 2012. “I Don’t Want to be Sexist But...”, *Food, Culture & Society*, 15(3):473-489.

***Short Paper 1 is due: Thursday, Feb 8th**

Week 6 – Feb 13 & 15

The Changing Meanings of Food, Health & Identity

- What is the relationship between food, health & identity?
- How do our social identities impact on food choice?

Read from D2L: Guptill, Amy E., Denise A. Copelton, and Betsy Lucal. 2017. “Nutrition and Health: Good to Eat, Hard to Stomach”, *In Food and Society: Principles & Paradoxes*, p. 59-81.

Feb 15th - MID TERM EXAM (In Class)

Week 7 – Feb 20 & 22

No Class – Reading Week

Week 8 – Feb 27 & March 1

Exploring the Consequences of Food Insecurity

- What is Food Security / Insecurity?
- What are the impacts of food insecurity?
- Is there food insecurity among university students?

Read: Chapter 15 in Critical Perspectives in Food Studies

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Origins and Consequences of and Responses to Food Insecurity in Canada, by Naomi Dachner and Valerie Tasaruk (p. 221-236)

Read from D2L: Olauson, Caitlin, Engler-Stringer, Rachel, Vatanparast Hassan and Hanoski Rita. 2017. "Student Food Insecurity: examining barriers to higher education at the University of Saskatchewan." *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition*

***Short Paper 2 is due Thursday, March 1st**

Week 9 – March 6 & 8 Social Inequality and Food

- Food choice, inequality & impacts on food choice

Read from D2L: Rock, Melanie, McIntyre, Lynn and Rondeau, Krista. 2009. "Discomforting comfort foods: stirring the pot on Kraft Dinner® and social inequality in Canada." *Agriculture and Human Values*, 26(3): 167-176.

Read from D2L: Power, Elaine. 2008. "Conceptualizing Food Security for Aboriginal People in Canada", *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, March/April: 95-97.

Film: "A Place at the Table"

Week 10 – March 13 & 15 Food, Health & Identity in Northern Indigenous Communities

- Understanding the impact of colonization on Indigenous food systems
- Challenges and resistance in Northern Communities

Read: Chapter 14 in *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*
What Constitutes Good Food: Toward a Critical Indigenous Perspective on Food and Health, by Debbie Martin and Margaret Amos (p. 205-220)

Film: "A Right To Eat" (48 min)

Week 11 – March 20 & 22 Exploring Food Sovereignty

- What is Food Sovereignty
- What is Indigenous Food Sovereignty

Read: Chapter 24 in *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*

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Building Food Sovereignty: A Radical Framework for Alternative Food Systems, by Annette Aurélie Desmarais (p. 363-379).

Read on D2L: Morrison, Dawn. (2011). Indigenous Food Sovereignty: A Model for Social Learning, in *Food Sovereignty in Canada: Creating Just and Sustainable Food Systems*, pgs. 97-113.

Video: Patel, Raj. "Food Sovereignty"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xyl1GyYDcyg>

***Short Paper 3 is Due Thursday March 22nd**

Week 12 – March 27 & 29

The Future of Food: Food Policy & Alternative Food

Read: (Food Secure Canada Report) <https://foodsecurecanada.org/policy-advocacy/five-big-ideas-better-food-system>

Read on D2L: (Food Secure Canada's Policy Brief Report) Building a Health, Just and Sustainable Food System: Food Secure Canada's Policy Recommendations for a Food Policy for Canada – or available at:
https://foodsecurecanada.org/sites/foodsecurecanada.org/files/attached_files/policy_brief_a_food_policy_for_canada_sept_28_by_fsc.pdf

***Guest Speaker: TBA**

Week 13 – April 3 & 5

Wrap Up & Reflections!

Read from D2L: Food Secure Canada: Where Agriculture, Environment, Health, Food and Justice Intersect, by Kathleen Kneen, In *Food Sovereignty In Canada: Creating Just and Sustainable Food Systems*, Edited by Hannah Wittman, Annette Arelie Desmarais and Nettie Wiebe.

***Final Annotated Bibliography Due Thursday, April 5th**